

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Neil Brown & Karl Nesselrode

Art Unit: 3673

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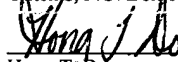
Examiner: John Kreck

Title: APPARATUS, METHOD AND
SYSTEM FOR WELL-SOLUTION
MINING

Docket No.: A30588US

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Dear Commissioner:

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION ISSUED OCTOBER 2, 2003

In response to the outstanding Office Action issued October 2, 2003, Applicants Neil Brown & Karl Nesselrode hereby amend the above-referenced U.S patent application as follows:

- I. **Remarks** begin on page 2;
- II. **Amendments to the Drawings** begin on page 3;
- III. **Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 4;
- IV. **Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 6;
- V. **Arguments** begin on page 12; and
- VI. **Conclusion** begins on page 14.

I. REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 8-39 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 3-6, 8-10, 13, 21 and 23-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,425,003 to Huff. Claims 1, 3-6, 8-10, 13, 21, 23-28 and 37-38 stand rejected under 35 U.S. 102(b) 5,988,760 to Durup *et al.* Claims 19 and 35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over, U.S. 4,425,003 to Huff. Claims 2, 11, 20, 22 29 and 36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,425,003 to Huff in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,953,073 to Kube. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

The drawings stand disapproved on multiple grounds, and require amended replacement sheets, filed concurrent with the instant response. In view of the present amendments to the drawings and cancellation of certain, previously objectionable, dependent claims, Applicants submit the outstanding objections to the drawings have now been overcome.

II. AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The drawings stand rejected under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a), and require amended replacement sheets, filed concurrent with the instant response. In view of the present amendments to the drawings and cancellation of certain dependent claims below, Applicants submit the outstanding objections to the drawings have been overcome and should now be removed.

In particular, dependent claims 23-24, 30 and 36 have been cancelled, so that every claimed feature of the invention is clearly shown in the drawings. Also, each portion of prior Figures 2a-2c has been separated and renumbered as Figures 2a-1 through 2c-2, respectively, so that each of the mentioned figures contain only a single representative view of the invention (*i.e.*, either a cross sectional view or a plan view).